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Mr. Lorenz's discussion and of most discussions of the concentration of wealth, that they do not deal with what they set out to, that is, the concentration of wealth. Of course, the answer to this criticism is that the statistician and economist must use what figures are available, and these are in general income statistics. But the investigator certainly should not give his results a character which is not theirs. He should answer the question with which he sets out to the best of his ability, or else change the statement of the question to conform to what answer he can and does get. And, if he seeks to measure the distribution of possibilities of welfare by way of income, he should at least show some consciousness of the fact that his incomes need weighting before comparison.

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#### CHILDREN OF DECEDENTS IN MICHIGAN.

In the absence of satisfactory birth statistics in this country and the great interest in recent years in the problem of "race suicide," any data derived from registration returns and having a direct bearing upon this subject may be esteemed of interest.

An entirely new class of facts, at least for this country, is given in the accompanying table, which is based upon the 32,453 deaths registered in Michigan for the year 1900.

The form of certificate of death used in Michigan, which is otherwise the "standard" blank recommended by the United States Census Bureau, is unique in containing, in addition to the usual statement of "single, married, widowed, or divorced," the following question:—

AGE AT MARRIAGE, NUMBER OF CHILDREN	}	If married, age at (first) marriage . . . . . years
	}	Parent of . . . children, of whom . . . are living

This question is not always answered, and may not be always answered correctly in all cases. It is probable that the trustworthiness of the replies is fairly close to that of other items, and the number of returns containing answers to this question is probably amply sufficient to establish the general relations of fertility of marriage for the larger groups of decedents.

Excluding males under eighteen years of age and females under sixteen years of age, the legal ages for marriage in Michigan, in cases where the question was not answered, a very few "unknown ages," and also all colored decedents, also few in number, we find that the



Unknown nativity	All ages	114	43.7	492	4.32	315	2.76	97	69.3	454	4.68	296	3.05
	15-19												
	20-29	4	—	3	0.75	3	0.75	10	—	16	1.60	15	1.50
	30-39	9	—	15	1.67	14	1.56	13	—	47	3.62	40	3.01
	40-49	4	—	8	2.00	6	1.50	7	—	15	2.14	12	1.71
	50-59	17	—	38	2.24	33	1.94	9	—	38	4.22	27	3.00
	60-69	18	—	64	3.56	43	2.39	13	—	59	4.54	34	2.62
	70-79	32	—	161	5.03	111	3.47	22	—	121	5.50	78	3.55
80+	30	—	203	6.77	105	3.50	23	—	158	6.87	90	3.91	
Native, native parents	All ages	2,590	76.4	10,690	4.13	7,548	2.91	2,919	82.7	17,687	4.00	7,894	2.70
	15-19	—	28.0	119	1.21	101	1.03	32	16.8	23	0.72	20	0.63
	20-29	98	63.7	369	2.12	325	1.87	298	62.1	529	1.78	435	1.46
	30-39	174	78.1	820	3.03	663	2.45	333	85.4	940	2.82	752	2.26
	40-49	271	86.7	1,387	3.61	1,094	2.85	306	85.5	1,039	3.40	822	2.69
	50-59	384	90.4	2,267	4.10	1,620	2.93	411	89.2	1,502	3.65	1,078	2.62
	60-69	553	92.1	3,407	4.85	2,321	3.31	614	93.9	2,334	4.35	1,595	2.97
	70-79	702	95.3	2,321	5.69	1,424	3.49	388	93.0	3,094	5.04	1,916	3.12
80+	498	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,226	5.74	1,276	2.29	
Native father, foreign mother	All ages	99	55.9	352	3.56	256	2.59	135	69.9	442	3.27	309	2.29
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	0.33	1	0.33
	20-29	14	—	20	1.43	14	1.00	42	—	50	1.19	42	1.00
	30-39	8	—	20	2.50	18	2.25	23	—	62	2.70	48	2.09
	40-49	18	—	43	2.39	34	1.89	18	—	76	4.22	56	3.11
	50-59	15	—	46	3.07	35	2.33	14	—	79	5.64	67	4.78
	60-69	19	—	80	4.21	55	2.89	16	—	61	3.81	39	2.44
	70-79	15	—	96	6.40	72	4.80	9	—	47	5.22	26	2.89
80+	10	—	47	4.70	28	2.80	10	—	66	6.60	30	3.00	
Foreign father, native mother	All ages	139	49.1	480	3.47	345	2.48	214	69.7	812	3.79	593	2.77
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	0.67	1	0.33
	20-29	18	—	14	0.78	12	0.67	48	—	98	2.04	81	1.69
	30-39	23	—	49	2.13	41	1.78	46	—	146	3.17	119	2.59
	40-49	17	—	49	2.88	37	2.18	30	—	115	3.83	89	2.97
	50-59	22	—	86	3.91	63	2.86	29	—	143	4.93	97	3.34
	60-69	20	—	84	4.20	58	2.90	24	—	87	3.63	63	2.63
	70-79	23	—	130	5.65	96	4.17	18	—	115	6.39	71	3.94
80+	16	—	68	4.25	38	2.38	16	—	106	6.83	72	4.50	
Foreign parents	All ages	459	49.6	1,665	3.63	1,253	2.73	604	64.0	2,266	3.75	1,687	2.79
	15-19	1	—	0	0.00	0	0.00	10	—	9	0.90	6	0.60
	20-29	61	—	92	1.51	78	1.28	139	—	273	1.96	219	1.58
	30-39	104	—	233	2.24	199	1.91	162	—	550	3.40	439	2.71
	40-49	96	—	325	3.39	257	2.68	124	—	524	4.23	416	3.35
	50-59	71	—	297	4.18	226	3.18	54	—	284	5.26	196	3.63
	60-69	57	—	283	4.96	206	3.61	55	—	252	4.58	188	3.42
	70-79	40	—	242	6.05	165	4.13	37	—	244	6.59	148	4.00
80+	29	—	193	6.66	122	4.21	23	—	130	5.65	75	3.26	
Parents, one or both unknown	All ages	1,062	76.1	4,979	4.69	3,352	3.16	1,060	85.3	4,698	4.43	3,061	2.89
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	1.00	5	1.00
	20-29	22	—	34	1.55	25	1.14	72	—	123	1.71	99	1.38
	30-39	44	—	99	2.25	82	1.86	88	—	264	3.00	209	2.38
	40-49	69	—	224	3.25	187	2.71	101	—	374	3.70	313	3.10
	50-59	123	—	535	4.35	372	3.02	128	—	543	4.24	359	2.80
	60-69	233	—	1,046	4.49	725	3.11	176	—	746	4.24	509	2.85
	70-79	326	—	1,629	5.00	1,073	3.29	258	—	1,322	5.12	851	3.30
80+	245	—	1,412	5.76	888	3.62	232	—	1,321	5.69	716	3.09	

Parents, one or both unknown	80+	29	—	193	6.66	122	4.21	23	—	130	0.32	4.00
	All ages	1,062	76.1	4,979	4.69	3,352	3.16	1,060	85.3	4,698	4.43	3,061
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	1.00	2.89
	20-29	22	—	34	1.55	25	1.14	72	—	123	1.71	99
	30-39	44	—	99	2.25	82	1.86	88	—	264	3.00	209
	40-49	69	—	224	3.25	187	2.71	101	—	374	3.70	313
	50-59	123	—	535	4.35	372	3.02	128	—	543	4.24	359
	60-69	233	—	1,046	4.49	725	3.11	176	—	746	4.24	509
	70-79	326	—	1,629	5.00	1,073	3.29	258	—	1,322	5.12	851
	80+	245	—	1,412	5.76	888	3.62	232	—	1,321	5.69	716
Canada	All ages	727	71.8	4,049	5.57	2,849	3.92	794	—	4,313	5.43	2,907
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	0.67	2
	20-29	21	—	32	1.52	21	1.00	91	—	143	1.57	123
	30-39	77	—	194	2.52	155	2.01	119	—	439	3.69	348
	40-49	113	—	456	4.04	362	3.20	136	—	718	5.28	503
	50-59	135	—	631	4.67	488	3.61	117	—	641	5.48	451
	60-69	186	—	1,211	6.51	838	4.51	146	—	995	6.82	652
	70-79	131	—	979	7.47	635	4.85	118	—	846	7.17	537
	80+	64	—	546	8.53	350	5.47	64	—	529	8.27	291
	All ages	576	84.8	3,150	5.47	2,180	3.78	447	—	2,409	5.39	1,536
England, Scotland, Wales	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20-29	9	—	11	1.22	9	1.00	17	—	36	2.12	27
	30-39	21	—	55	2.62	49	2.33	22	—	93	4.23	66
	40-49	39	—	163	4.18	133	3.41	24	—	104	4.33	82
	50-59	76	—	363	4.78	267	3.51	52	—	240	4.62	161
	60-69	107	—	602	5.63	437	4.08	103	—	568	5.51	387
	70-79	194	—	1,135	5.85	765	3.95	145	—	861	5.94	528
	80+	130	—	821	6.32	519	3.99	84	—	507	6.04	285
	All ages	406	78.1	2,522	6.21	1,684	4.15	450	—	2,742	6.09	1,731
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland	20-29	2	—	4	2.00	4	2.00	8	—	31	3.88	22
	30-39	12	—	48	4.00	32	2.67	10	—	42	4.20	30
	40-49	10	—	49	4.90	39	3.90	14	—	62	4.43	36
	50-59	53	—	281	5.30	194	3.66	49	—	273	5.57	191
	60-69	93	—	553	5.95	393	4.23	119	—	692	5.82	471
	70-79	131	—	857	6.54	561	4.28	145	—	976	6.73	584
	80+	105	—	730	6.95	461	4.39	105	—	666	6.34	397
	All ages	1,046	83.9	6,325	6.05	4,254	4.07	964	—	5,867	6.09	3,678
	15-19	1	—	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	—	4	1.00	4
	20-29	10	—	7	0.70	6	0.60	42	—	89	2.12	74
Germany (Austria)	30-39	57	—	219	3.84	172	3.02	82	—	413	5.04	304
	40-49	112	—	642	5.73	456	4.07	89	—	570	6.40	398
	50-59	168	—	1,020	6.07	724	4.31	178	—	867	5.77	543
	60-69	228	—	1,482	6.50	1,027	4.50	212	—	1,412	6.66	903
	70-79	307	—	1,895	6.17	1,229	4.00	271	—	1,699	6.27	1,019
	80+	163	—	1,060	6.50	640	3.93	136	—	813	5.98	433
	All ages	171	85.5	1,131	6.61	693	4.05	175	—	1,053	6.01	671
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20-29	3	—	5	1.67	5	1.67	6	—	6	1.00	6
	30-39	12	—	39	3.25	33	2.75	17	—	84	4.94	64
Holland	40-49	20	—	96	4.80	78	3.90	21	—	118	5.62	89
	50-59	21	—	150	7.14	107	5.10	15	—	106	7.07	72
	60-69	45	—	374	8.31	206	4.58	38	—	242	6.37	150
	70-79	48	—	317	6.60	188	3.92	42	—	286	6.81	169
	80+	22	—	150	6.82	76	3.45	36	—	211	5.86	121
	All ages	171	85.5	1,131	6.61	693	4.05	175	—	1,053	6.01	671
	15-19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	20-29	3	—	5	1.67	5	1.67	6	—	6	1.00	6
	30-39	12	—	39	3.25	33	2.75	17	—	84	4.94	64
	40-49	20	—	96	4.80	78	3.90	21	—	118	5.62	89
	50-59	21	—	150	7.14	107	5.10	15	—	106	7.07	72
	60-69	45	—	374	8.31	206	4.58	38	—	242	6.37	150
	70-79	48	—	317	6.60	188	3.92	42	—	286	6.81	169
	80+	22	—	150	6.82	76	3.45	36	—	211	5.86	121

[illegible]

total number of deaths compiled for the purpose of the following table was 20,675, about two-thirds of the total number of deaths of all classes and ages in the State during the year, and 96.96 per cent. of the total number of deaths at all known ages over fifteen years, which was 21,324. This shows that the returns under this head are sufficiently exhaustive to be fairly representative.

Of the 10,691 male decedents, 2,161, or 20.2 per cent., were reported as single. 767, or 7.2 per cent., were either married, widowed, or divorced, but with number of children not stated, leaving 7,763, or 72.6 per cent., the number of whose children born and living was given.

Of the 9,984 female decedents, 1,216, or 12.2 per cent., were single. 582, or 5.8 per cent., were not single, but number of children was not reported, while 8,186, or 82.0 per cent., is the number of those reported as having had children.

The latter category is of the most importance, and is used as the subject of the following table, which also gives the number of decedents of each sex and children born and living for each ten-year age-period, together with the average number of children to each decedent. The percentages given, which appear only for the totals except for the largest groups, show how fully the figures used in this table represent the total volume of returns of the given class, and are affected by age-distribution of population.

I regret that circumstances preclude a full analysis of the data contained in this table. Ten years ago I showed, or endeavored to show, on the basis of the imperfect returns of births then available, that the native population of Michigan was not sustaining itself, the average number of children per native mother being only 3.0, the same as in France, while the mothers of foreign birth had 5.1 children for the last period studied, 1890-94. This was a mere general average, and the use of the age-periods enables us to watch the passing generations in this respect, and see, to some extent, how the fertility of marriage has changed for the same nationality. It is most suggestive, for example, to know that 615 native males who died in Michigan in 1900, aged from fifty to fifty-nine years, had had an average of 3.82 children, of whom 2.91 survived, while 510 foreign-born males dying in the same year at the same period of age had had an average of 5.30 children each, of whom 3.86 children survived. We have some light here on the claim frequently made that, while Americans have fewer children born, they rear a larger proportion of them to manhood and womanhood.

The first part of the question in the blank, that relating to the age at marriage, has not even been touched upon. If time permitted,

some very interesting comparisons could be made with the Australian data of similar character for the same year in the Statistician's Report on the Vital Statistics of New South Wales, by Dr. Coghlan, from whose reports I believe that the addition of this question to the items required in the Michigan law was suggested to me. Perhaps the facts here shown may warrant a continuation of effort in the compilation of this class of data, and perhaps make the registration reports of greater sociological interest aside from their sanitary importance.

CRESSY L. WILBUR.

LANSING, MICH., Dec. 27, 1905.